

Leys News

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Please send two examples of your work
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ISSUE 78 | OCTOBER 2010

All the fun of the fair!



Two friends try their hand at Billy Radish's circus skills workshop. For more pictures from this year's Leys Fair please see centre spread. Picture by Leah Owens

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:



What is Alidja smiling about?
Read her inspiring story on page 5 and find out how you can help raise cash for orphans in the Congo.



Blooming marvellous!
The Clockhouse Gardening Project is growing into a huge success. Find out how you can get involved on page 9

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50TH ANNIVERSARY MOSAIC

Because of weather damage, the 50th Anniversary Mosaic, will be taken down this week. It is not known how long it'll take to be repaired, but once it has been repaired and a suitable position found, the mosaic will go back up.



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What is Planning Aid?
Planning Aid South provides free, independent and professional planning advice to individuals and community groups who cannot afford to pay professional fees.

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Leys News is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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SUBMISSIONS

LEYS NEWS welcomes submissions and ideas for articles and photographs from all sectors of the community. If you would like to send us a press release about your community project please email it to editor@leysnews.co.uk and we will consider it for publication in a future issue.

The next issue of Leys News will be delivered on 30 October and the deadline for advertising and editorial copy is 15 October.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well Autumn is upon us and with the new season comes the start of a new term and some new possibilities!

As the children are now back at school, college or university and settling in to their new routines, this is a great time for parents to start thinking about their futures too and maybe consider taking a course or returning to the workplace. After years of school runs and rushing to and from work every day, both of my children are now at secondary school so I have the luxury of a little bit of flexibility. This has already made my life so much easier as not only am I able

to devote more time to Leys News, but I also don't find myself rushing around like a mad woman all day! I have been giving serious consideration to continuing my education and lots of my friends are thinking about that too. A couple of mums I know haven't worked for quite a few years as they have been busy bringing up their children and managing their homes. With a little more time on their hands, they now want to go back to work but are a bit nervous about taking those first few steps back on to the career ladder. If this sounds familiar to you then you are in luck because every Monday from 2-4pm at the Blackbird Leys

Leisure Centre, Naveed Ramzam from Scout Enterprises in Cowley will be on hand to offer advice and help for anyone who is planning on going back to work, but just doesn't know where to start. The two-hour sessions are completely free of charge and promise help with CV writing, letter writing, job hunting, confidence skills and interview skills. Everyone is welcome so if you are thinking of heading back to work, this could be the ideal

place to start.

We always love to hear from you, so if you do go along and see Naveed please write and tell us how you got on. All correspondence is welcome about any local issues or stories in the paper that have grabbed your attention. Please email editor@leysnews.co.uk or write to us at the usual address.

Best wishes

Sarah

Black History Month

Don't forget that October is Black History Month and across Oxford there are loads of events taking place. If you want to find out more about Black culture and heritage then visit www.ackhi.org for details of events in your area.

FANCY A CUPPA?

WHY not come along to the next Leys News Editorial Planning Morning and find out how we put the paper together? Once a month we get together for a chat and a coffee at The Boiler Room Cafe in Pegasus Road to talk about ideas for stories and photographs for forthcoming issues of the paper. Everyone is welcome to come along and contribute ideas for the paper and we look forward to seeing you all at the next get together on Tuesday 5 October at 10.30am.



PLANNING THE PAPER: Community Journalists Trio Watson, Leah Owen and Katie Chester meet to talk about their ideas for the next issue of Leys News.

CORRECTION

In last month's Leys News we ran a story about the Agnes Smith Advcie Centre. We stated that with regard to Administration Orders, to qualify you must have at least two creditors and your total debt must be less than £500,000. This is incorrect and the amount should read £5000.00. We would like to apologise to Jim Smith and the staff at the centre for this mistake.

Competition Winner

The winner of last month's Children's Page wordsearch is ten-year-old Ian Muhungi from Hornbeam Road. Ian is the lucky winner of a fabulous radio/CD player. Well done! Your prize is on its way!

Some ways you can get involved with Leys News:

- Become a paid distributor. You need to be over 14 and have a responsible attitude.
- Write for the paper: We're always looking for writers and people with an eye for a story.
- Editorial meeting: Tell us what you want to see in the paper. Open to the public - just drop in. Next meeting: 10.30am, Tuesday 30 October at the Boiler Room Cafe, Pegasus school.
- Office Volunteer: We are always happy to have office volunteers. No experience necessary. You will benefit by gaining experience and a reference for future paid work and by knowing you have made a contribution to your local community paper.
- Become a Director with Leys News. We have meetings every six weeks to make decisions concerning the paper. Local people or members of other community groups are very welcome.

For more information contact John on 01865 711756 or email officemanager@leysnews.co.uk



Cartoon by Jane Yates from Wolvercote, Oxford. To see more of Jane's work please visit: www.wolvercoteartist.co.uk

LETTERS FROM READERS

Pegasus School

Dear all – Just a quick note to say huge thanks for the lovely article about our summer horticultural show - it was MUCH appreciated by all at Pegasus. Thanks again.

Jill Hudson (Head)

Lost Shoe

Hi Leys News – Paula from the Blackbird Leys Community Centre here.

I dare say there is a parent somewhere here on the Leys who is gutted their young daughter has lost one shoe and wondered if it could make the local paper.

A pink limited edition Toy Story/Little Bo Peep Adidas girl's trainer, size 3 was found 2-3 weeks ago outside the front of the Blackbird Leys Community Centre. Can you help?

Paula

Women's Business Network Update

SEPTEMBER was a busy month for the Women's Business Network! At our meeting Paul Griffiths gave an interesting talk on market research. The following Saturday we had a stall at the Leys Fair and enjoyed talking to local residents about what we do – we hope to see some of you at our future meetings! We had a raffle too, with some great prizes donated by our members. The next week we had an inspiring workshop led by media expert (and Leys News editor) Sarah Edwards, where we learnt to write a press release and who to send it to.

We have more exciting events planned for October – look out for us at Templar's Square on Saturday 2 October where we'll be offering free taster activities from our members' businesses including face painting and glitter tattoos, hand massage, and mini card making.

If you are a woman who has her own business or is considering it, you will be made very welcome at the Women's Business Network. We are a friendly, supportive group that meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30–9pm at 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5 October and we're having a talk on bookkeeping for small businesses.

Get in touch:

womenscommunitybusiness@yahoo.co.uk or call 0779 9893747. Or just turn up!

SELL YOUR STUFF!

DO you have items gathering dust in your attic or garden shed? Could you do with a bit of extra cash in the run up to Christmas? Why not advertise your unwanted, good quality goods in the Leys News Items for Sale column? Call John on 01865 711756 for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to announce a birth, marriage or death in Leys News, please email officemanager@leysnews.co.uk and we will send you details of this new service.

Big Tidy Up with the Leys WI

MEMBERS of the Leys WI and friends spent a wet Sunday morning picking up litter to clean up the local environment. The litter pick was part of the Big Tidy Up campaign organised by Keep Britain Tidy. Sharon Cabral, secretary of the Leys WI and the organiser of the tidy up, said: "The Leys WI thought a litter pick would be a great opportunity to help the community and the environment - both key issues close to our heart."

Six volunteers worked from the Clockhouse in Greater Leys, where the WI meet, via the Spa shop and Windale Community Primary School towards Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre. Louise Hodges, part of the litter picking team, said: "We collected eight or nine sacks of rubbish in less than two hours. We are going to get as much of the rubbish recycled as we can." Fellow litter picker Moe Scholl added: "The rain didn't put us off at all - it just added to the fun."

Sharon Cabral was pleased with the results of the tidy up. She said: "Thank you to everyone that took part. We have decided to make it an annual event - so check us out next year!"

The Leys WI meets at the Clockhouse on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. At the next meeting members will be having a go at circle dancing so why not go along on 6 October and join the fun. You will be made very welcome.

To find out more visit www.theleyswi.moonfruit.com, e-mail theleyswi@yahoo.co.uk or ring Rachel Fisher on 07863 563583.



(left to right) Elaine Turner, Louise Hodges, Sharon Cabral and Trish Stableford with some of the bags of litter collected

Best results ever for Oxford Academy



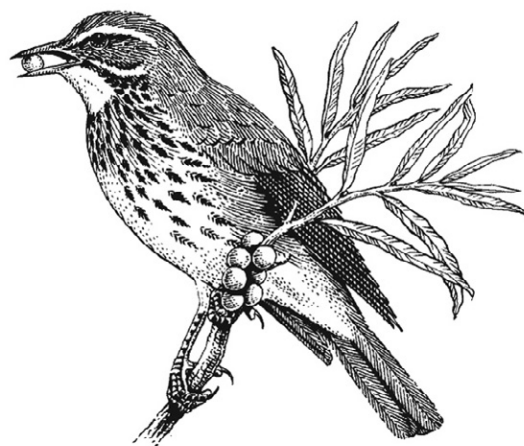
PUPILS AND STAFF from The Oxford Academy are still celebrating following the school's best ever GCSE results.

Mike Reading, Principal of The Oxford Academy, said he is delighted: "Sixty three per cent of our students have now achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C and 32 per cent have achieved five or more at grade A* -C including English and Maths. We are tremendously proud of our students' achievement, which is a direct result of their hard work and dedication and of the excellent support and encouragement of staff and parents. We have not only improved; we have blown away previous achievements."

"Individual students have excelled; Emily Melville had the highest number of points for all of her subjects. Sheldon Brackett achieved seven grades at either A* or A. Emily Melville, Leyton Paget, Megan Jones and Karim Khan all secured 13 grades at A*-C. Forty students at the Academy achieved at least one grade A*. These students have achieved their very impressive results alongside others who have overcome exceedingly tough personal challenges and obstacles. They know that our excitement is just as strong for their success even though I cannot name them."

Mr Reading added: "Our teachers have worked remarkably hard with our students; Maths and English scores have improved, the fantastic results achieved last year in Science have been exceeded and we have over 80 per cent pass rates in Drama, Art and Textiles. I am also delighted to announce that we are increasingly the first choice school in the community. We have seen a 200 per cent increase in Year 7 numbers since opening and are delighted to have 190 new students joining us this term. When we opened the Academy we made a commitment to bring in changes that would last. This year we have really started to see some excellent progress. We look to the future with a great sense of optimism as we prepare for the move into the fantastic new buildings."

Nature Discovery Trail - Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve



DISCOVER the first signs of autumn on Aston Rowant NNR's new self guided nature trail! The trail changes seasonally and with the first signs of autumn on the way now is a great time to try it out. Be the first to spot blackberries and take the challenge of finding your way around the exciting 3km route. Watch Red Kites soar and Kestrels hover as you look for evidence of mice and voles left on this year's hazel nuts.

The trail is a great adventure for adults and children alike, with lots of information about what can be seen on this stunning wildlife site, as well

as Children's Challenges at every stopping point. The trail is made up of a series of stylish leaf shaped boards and takes you up and down the gentle slopes of the Chiltern Hills. The start can be found at the entrance to the site on the south side of the nature reserve, opposite Cowleaze Wood Car Park.

Aston Rowant NNR is open all year round and the trail offers a fun, healthy and free day out for adventurers of all ages, you may have visited already this year by coming to the Springwatch or Sounds like Summer event. The trail is steep in places so is therefore best suited to children who are used to walking. The trail takes approximately 1.5hrs and ends at our easy access trail where you will find picnic benches and a great place to meet younger family members as it is easy to reach for pushchairs.

Aston Rowant nature reserve has even more to offer this autumn with the Go Wild in the Dark Lantern Walk on 30 October, book your place now!

For more information, lantern walk bookings, or to give us feedback call the reserve office on 01844 351833 or email jenny.crook@naturalengland.org.uk.

Birthday present for African School

The African School, which celebrates its first birthday this month, has been awarded £800 by the Oxfordshire County Council Community Support Fund.

This will be spent on books and learning resources, web construction, accreditation, stationery and general publicity.

The African School was established in September 2009, to provide community teaching about pre-colonial Sub Saharan cultures. Classes take place on Monday evenings at the Jubilee Hall, Sorrel Road, Blackbird Leys. Teaching is free and open to all. Classes run from 7 to 8.30pm.

Plea for play equipment

The Mabel Prichard Special School in Cuddesdon Way is on the look out for some play equipment.

Recently the Foundation / Key Stage 1 play area has been extended and the school now needs some big outside toys for the children with Special Educational needs. Staff are particularly looking for a large plastic playhouse for outside play that can be kept outside, cooker play sets, a plastic play picnic table with benches, dressing up clothes and large sit-on cars, tractors and diggers. All items to be in reasonably good condition and strong and sturdy enough for special needs children.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

“We love selling
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Julie and John have been successfully finding and matching the right properties with the right purchasers in Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys for many years. John, whilst the director with Connells Estate Agents, was responsible for the sale of over 50% of the homes which were built on the Greater Leys Estate.

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Singing for the Congo

Leys Gospel choir will help African children



FOR THE CONGO: Alidja Templer and her husband Aaron.

A LEYS youth worker who was forced to flee from the Congo as a six-year-old girl has launched a major appeal to raise money to help orphans in her home country.

Alidja Templer, who works as a dance teacher for the Leys Youth programme is also leading the gospel choir, and has organised a special concert to raise cash for the project in Kinshasa that cares for orphans.

Alidja has already been busy baking cakes and taking part in a sponsored run to boost the fund, and hopes the concert will attract support from across Oxford.

She said: "I was born in the Kinshasa Democratic Republic of Congo and I am half Congolese and

half Angolan, and part of the Bakongo tribe. My family moved to Kinshasa in the early 1970s during the colonial period, and in the early 1990s my mother decided to return to Angola with my siblings where I spent my early childhood. In Luanda the capital city of Angola, there was a lot of prejudice against people from the Bakongo tribe - even people with dual heritage like us who were half Congolese and half Angolan. This made us feel very unsafe. Life could be dangerous and we did not enjoy the same opportunities as people who were natives of Angola. The regime was such that this often led to persecution or the serious threat of it. In 1994 my family was forced to leave

Angola due to the discrimination from the Luanda Government. We left in a very difficult situation and we had to hide and were separated from my mum and my other family members in our getaway.

"In January 1995 I arrived in the UK as my brother's dependant aged six with my sister Lolita aged eight, and my four-year-old nephew Ange via South Africa. My brother applied for asylum at Gatwick airport. We were placed in temporary accommodation for a while and later transferred to Chessington in Surrey, where I started at primary school. We arrived in difficult circumstances as asylum seekers. We could not speak the language we were in an

alien culture and had all the associated difficulties to deal with. My brother had to care for us which he was not used to doing, and we had to deal with the anxiety of not knowing the whereabouts of the rest of the family members back home. Since we had left Angola we had lost contact with the rest of our family, and we later discovered that they were actually living in Kinshasa but my mum was seriously ill and she was expected to die, which she did on 22 November 1997. So we had lots to cope with. However we were amazed by the support we received from local community organisations such as the Chessington evangelical Church, The King's Centre and the social services."

The concert by the Leys Gospel Choir is called Love Worship and takes place on Saturday 2 October at 7pm at the Holy Family Church, Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys.

Alidja added: "We really want people to buy tickets and attend our event to support us in raising the money. I feel very passionate about children and young people and I would like the opportunity to go to the Congo and work with orphan children next summer to give them hope and help build a future for them. Please come and listen to us sing and learn more about the amazing things my husband and I have done. So far I have run 80 miles in two weeks, walked 64 miles and baked loads of cakes. We are doing all this so that we can achieve our dream."

Tickets for the concert are £1 for children, £2 for adults, and £3.50 for a family ticket. For details ring Alidja on 07823335906 or email alidjatempler@hotmail.co.uk

Oxford celebrates Older People's Day

THE fourth annual Older People's Day falls on 1 October and Oxford City Council is celebrating it with a variety of free activities. This year the focus of the day is getting and staying active in later life.

In Oxford, the leisure centres are offering free activities including grandparent and grandchild swimming, badminton and T'ai Chi.

The local bowls clubs will also be opening their doors on Older People's Day to enable people to look around and try their hand at the game for free. Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre will be celebrating the day by offering a range of free activities which include:

- **Badminton:** 10am–11am, no appointment necessary
- **Gym inductions to non-members:** 12noon–1.30pm, please contact the centre in advance
- **Gym use for members aged 50 plus:** all day
- **Primetime 50 plus spinning class:** 12noon–12.45pm, please contact the centre in advance.

The centre will also be providing free tea and coffee to people over the age of 50 throughout the day, offering people the chance to meet up with friends in a fun and friendly environment.

Blackbird Leys Pool will also be offering a free Grandparent and Grandchild swimming session at 3pm until 4pm. Oxford's older residents can also take part in many other activities across the city such as yoga and ice skating, at a low cost.

Shepherds Hill Pre-school is outstanding!

Words and pictures by Katie Chester

FOLLOWING the success of the Dovecote play scheme and Cuddesdon Corner in their Ofsted inspections, Shepherds Hill Pre-school has been judged "outstanding" in all areas, proving the Leys has great provision for pre-schoolers.

I'd never heard of Shepherds Hill until I was invited there recently. I found them tucked away inside Windale Primary School. Manager Sarah Pearson told me: "A lot of people don't realise we're here. We're based inside Windale school but we're totally independent."

The charity-run pre-school has been at Windale for three years, and Sarah moved there after the Blackbird Leys pre-school had to close due to dwindling numbers as primary schools lowered their admissions age. Sarah said: "I think it's really important for pre-schools to stay open as it gives parents of very young children more choice. The



adult-child ratio here is one adult to eight children, while in the nurseries it's one to thirteen."

It's not hard to see why Shepherds Hill was judged "outstanding". Children choose their own activities both indoors and out from a range

of well resourced areas including the reading shed, the construction area and the "superheroes shed". Sarah explains the low adult to child ratio means children get plenty of attention so Shepherds Hill excels in helping children with special needs, language delay

and dual languages.

At just £5 a session for two year olds and £7.50 for threes it's really good value too.

For more information, call 01865 779504.



Dad Keith and his son Connor at the Cuddesdon Corner end of summer barbecue. Keith says: "Connor loves to come to Cuddesdon Corner – he mixes with other children, he really enjoys it and to tell you the truth, I do too. I've come a few times on my own without my partner Leslie and everyone includes us. I can really recommend it to other dads."

Cycle cash boost for cancer charity



A GROUP OF MEN cycled more than 50 miles to raise £1000 for the Prostate Cancer Charity. The sponsored ride to raise awareness was inspired by a friend in the local community, who developed the condition. African Caribbean men are three times more likely to develop prostate cancer than white men, and the riders are members of the local charity and community group, the African Caribbean Community Action Network (ACCAN). The event was organised by local barber Rodney Trotman, 52, who said: "We wanted to do something to raise awareness of this condition among our community, as it can be a taboo subject that men don't want to talk about."

The eight riders, all from Oxford, were Rodney Trotman, Josias Carbon, Jefferson Fontaine, Norman Reid, Ricky Lay, Jamie Pancott, George Thorbourne and Sean Gibson.

The group set off from the Blackbird Public House, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, cycling to Witney and back. The African Caribbean Community Action Network (ACCAN) is a registered charity that exists to help its members and the wider community realise their potential. Members can enjoy targeted services, information and opportunities to network and share experiences.

ACCAN is currently based at the Saxon Centre, Saxon Way, Northway, Oxford.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in men in the UK, with 35,000 cases annually. One man dies every hour of prostate cancer in the UK. The Prostate Cancer Charity is fighting prostate cancer on every front - through research, support, information and campaigning.

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FAMILY FUN AT THE FAIR!

DESPITE a windy start to the annual Leys Fair, crowds flocked to the community event at The Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre to enjoy an afternoon of family Fun.

Community groups from across the Leys came together to support the event and spread the word about the work they are doing with families, schools and local businesses.

As well as being a great networking opportunity and a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues, Leys Fair is a time for fun and younger visitors had the chance to try their hand at circus skills workshops with Billy Radish.

Billy, a regular at Leys Fair for some years said: "I have been teaching circus skills for 15 years and the children love it. I get them trying juggling and playing with a Diablo as well as stilt walking and plate spinning. It's great when they learn how to do it-it's such a great feeling and really gives children the confidence to try other things."

Zumba dance teacher Rebekah Robertshaw from Greater Leys took centre stage with her dance demonstration, and in the health tent there was the chance to enjoy a free massage and pick up plenty of tips and information about healthy living.

With a traditional Punch and Judy show, balloon modelling, face painting, a bouncy castle and afternoon tea and cake courtesy of the CDI, local families took advantage of some late afternoon sunshine to relax and join in the fun.

All photos by Leah Owens.



SINGLE DADS SPACE

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In recognition of the dedicated work that you do with your children we have put together a six week programme of workshops that should bring value and recognition to you as a person...

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River Pegasus

By Natty Mark Samuels

LIKE the Isis, the Pegasus Theatre intends to keep on flowing. So if we think of it as a great water course, then Amantha Edmead, must be one of its outstanding tributaries.

Amantha Edmead is a former member of the Pegasus Youth Theatre who went on to drama school and stages nationwide, but who has always treasured her links with her first stage.

She was commissioned to write an opening piece for the new theatre building called Waters Flight. This was a wonderful weave of narrative, dance, song and drum. A homage to Mother Earth and womanhood. Four African women, praising their beloved mother. From the opening lantern procession, accompanied by Binghy drumming, to the jembe and dumdum finale, those four women, each one a singer and dancer, as well as an actress, delighted and enchanted us.

It was fitting to see Euton Daley, the Artistic Director, invited to make libation for the new structure. Euton, who I think of as the quiet heartbeat of Pegasus Theatre would be a respected elder in any African village.

The four came together to create a beautiful blend. The names of these crucial ingredients, who gave us Waters Flight, alongside Amantha, are Chi Nwaubani, Laty 'Nzinga' Saki and Ayo Edwards, performing under the name Kuumba Nia, a company set up by Amantha.

Let me take a moment to salute Lukasz, a great drummer; it was a privilege to play alongside him.

The quartet reminded me of the Ramunangi clan of the Venda, South Africa. Where only selected women, and no men, are entrusted to perform the important rituals for rain. We thank them for performing the opening ritual for the new Pegasus Theatre.

Samba in Blackbird Leys

WEEKLY Samba dance sessions for the over 50s at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre have started and were launched at Leys Fair with a special demonstration.

The free sessions follow the successful taster sessions which ran earlier this year where Samba was chosen as the most popular dance by the participants. Oxford City Council has received funding from Fit as a Fiddle through Age UK to continue the classes during the autumn.

Classes will take place at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre and no previous experience is necessary. The classes are open to all and do not demand any prior level of fitness. You can just turn up on the day.

Councillor Mark Lygo, Board Member for Sport, Play and School Liaison, said: "These dance classes proved very successful earlier this year and I am pleased that we are able to bring back the most popular dance to Blackbird Leys.

"Dancing is an excellent way to keep fit and active. It will also give participants the opportunity to meet new people." Miranda Laurence, Arts Officer for Oxford City Council, added: "I am delighted that we have been awarded funding to continue these dance classes.

"Going to a dance class for the first time can be daunting and it helps to be among your peers of the same age group when trying something new.

"Participants over the



summer gained so much confidence that some of them even performed during the Cowley Road Carnival."

The Samba classes take place on Tuesdays from 10am until 11am at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, however, there will be no class on 26 October and on the 19 October the session will be at The Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys.

There is no commitment to having to come every week, the invitation is for anyone over 50 to come along, join in, keep fit and have fun! Wear loose comfortable clothing and comfortable footwear. No need to bring a partner.

For more information contact Miranda Laurence on 01865 252820 or email mlaurence@oxford.gov.uk

The sessions are a partnership between Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Fusion, The Clockhouse CDI, Age UK Oxfordshire and GO Active.

Oxford Sleep-Out 2010

By Trio Watson

OXFORD sleep out administrator Victoria Mort joined forces with Jean Williams from Emmaus, Lesley Dewhurst from Oxford Homeless Pathways, the Lord Mayor of Oxford, Cllr John Goddard, and a number of skilled musicians with experience of homelessness to launch this year's Sleep-Out.

Sleep-Out is a fundraising event organised in many parts of the world to raise cash for local homelessness projects and bring an awareness of issues around homelessness to a wider audience.

In Oxford, eight projects are hoping to benefit from money raised in a sponsored sleep-out being held on Saturday 13 November. Participants will be sponsored by friends, family and other supporters to sleep outdoors in St Clement's churchyard for one night, and so raise funds that projects can spend individually. "We're fundraising for the little extras that main funders can't cover", explains Ms Dewhurst, "such as outfits for job interviews, art projects and food. All the organisations get a share."

If you would like to join the Oxford Sleep-Out this year, please visit the sleep-out website at www.oxfordsleepout.org.uk, contact the administrator on 01865 246342 or email her at victoria@morthome.com



A call for foster parents

THERE is a recognised shortage of around 10,000 foster carers in the UK, and a local organisation is appealing for people to come forward.

Philip Cook from the PACT (Parents And Children Together) charity said: "We need people from all areas of the county and all walks of life to consider whether they could become foster carers and give a child a second chance. The need for foster carers isn't going to go away; there are around 60,000 children in care at the moment."

PACT is a registered charity that works across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Philip added: "We have been finding safe and secure families for children in need of Foster care since 2003 and providing adoption placements since the 1950's. PACT provides two types of foster care: Permanent Foster Care (when a child will be placed with a family and stay with them until they choose to leave home, go to university or move out of their own accord) and Short Break Foster Care or Respite Foster Care. This could be when a family would look after a child, perhaps already with foster carers, for a number of weekends in a year or for a few weeks in the school holidays to give the foster family and the foster child a break, for example.

"You don't have to be married to become a foster carer - you could be a single applicant. You need to



have experience of bringing up your own children and/or experience of working with children; this could be through volunteering with a local Scout or Guide group, in a school or in a sports club. You need to have a spare room for the child. PACT pays a Fostering Allowance to all foster carers; currently this is £335.70 a week. This is completely tax free and won't affect any other benefits."

Philip added that children with special needs or disabilities are often among the children that need foster care. He said: "Fostering might not be for you right now because a lot of the children that PACT need to find foster placements for are known as 'hard to

place' children. They could be 'hard to place' for any number of reasons though, be it their age or ethnicity. They may be in a sibling group or have a certain special need or disability. When PACT makes a placement we try to make sure that the foster child is the youngest in their new family as this is proven to work best for everyone."

If you want to find out more about PACT and fostering services visit www.pactcharity.org or call 0800 7311845 or email fostering@pactcharity.org

Everything in the garden is lovely!

THE Clockhouse Gardening Project is proving to be a huge success, and volunteers are already looking forward to a blooming marvellous spring season!

Reg Curnock, Chairman of the project said he is delighted with the progress so far, and is hoping that more volunteers will come along and join in. He said: "Thanks to a grant that we have received from the council, we now have a shed and some equipment, and bulbs ready to put in for next spring. I would like to appeal for donations of some more plants and would urge anyone who has an interest in gardening to come along and get involved."

Reg added that experience or gardening knowledge are not essential as there are plenty of seasoned gardeners on hand to give advice and help.

He said: "We welcome everyone-even complete beginners. As long as people don't mind doing some weeding and planting we are very happy for them to come along."

On October 21 there will be a working party at The Clockhouse garden that willing volunteers can join (see box right). Plans are already in place to hold an Open Day next year to celebrate the garden's success and thank all those who have been involved.



Reg Curnock, Chairman of the Clockhouse Gardening Project recruiting willing volunteers at Leys Fair.

Help transform our "Secret Garden"!

Would you like to make a real difference in your community, get some fresh air, and stay active? The Clockhouse Garden Project would love to have your help.

THE Clockhouse Community Centre in Greater Leys is a lively base for over-50s activities on the estate. It is used and enjoyed by many local older residents throughout the week. Now a scheme has been launched to bring the building's peaceful and sunny courtyard garden back to life.

The aim is to renew the beds and plant flowers, herbs and shrubs, creating a space full of colour and fragrance throughout the year. Local gardening club SLIGO (the Senior Leys Independent Gardening Organisation) plus volunteer teams from the Co-op have worked hard to clear

the existing beds, and are now at the exciting stage – preparing and planting them, in the hope of a flower-filled spring! More help is urgently needed, to get everything ready before the winter. You don't have to be an expert gardener, as club members will be on hand with guidance and support.

Donations of plants will also be very gratefully received.

Adults of all ages are also welcome to SLIGO's monthly meetings which are held at the Clockhouse on the first Thursday of each month at 2 pm, price £2 including refreshments. The next meeting on 7 October is SLIGO's AGM and social, a chance to meet members, and share ideas for future speakers and trips."

If you can spare an hour or two to help in the garden this autumn, please contact Sally Meachim (Leys CDI Clockhouse Project tel: 395908) or come to the Clockhouse (with garden tools if possible) on Thursday 21 October from 2.00–4.00pm, for a garden working party. Biscuits, hot drinks and a warm welcome guaranteed.

Autumn Growing

By Leah Owens

WELL, where did the summer go? My poor tomatoes are shivering in their green skins and the salad leaves are pitifully small. Having given up on an Indian Summer my thoughts turn instead to hot water bottles and hearty winter stews.

All the talk of global food shortages have spurred me on to grow myself some riot supplies this Autumn/Winter - just in case! October isn't the obvious month to begin growing food crops so what can you grow for winter pickings and early spring eating? Quite a lot, surprisingly. It's too cold to sow most seed now, however you can buy veg plants to put in the ground for Winter and early Spring pickings; but you'll have to be quick.

Delfland Nurseries have a

selection of winter veg and salads. £15 for 60 mixed plants, which include sprouting broccoli, spinach and chard, or you could split a pack with a friend or neighbour and have 30 plants each for £7.50. Or check out local plant nurseries like Thamesdown Farm in Garsington, who also sell local veg, eggs and jam.

Having planted a selection in August, from Fentongollan Farm, I'm already picking chard and spinach for dinner. If you don't have a garden then spinach, chard and kale can be grown in compost bags on a balcony or in a window box along with spring bulbs.

Now is also a good time to sow broad beans for an early spring crop. Good varieties for Autumn sowing are: Aquadulce Claudia, Super-



aquadulce and The Sutton.

Pop them straight into the ground (2 - 3 inches/ 6 - 7cm) and cover with home made plastic bottle clothes for a bit of Winter warmth and protection. Just cut a plastic bottle in half and push into the ground over each seed. Remove the clothes when the plants get too big and be prepared to support them in those whippy winds.

Green Fingers

By Stuart Mabbutt

Time to take stock ready for Spring

One of the best known flowers out there in the garden is the poppy, and types like Oriental Poppies can easily be propagated by taking root cuttings in early autumn or by being dug up and divided in the spring months.

If you would like to have a go at taking a root cutting, try finding a medium sized root, not too big and not too small. Then cut it into four inch segments. Always remember to cut the top straight across and angle the lower cut, as it's so easy to forget which way up the cutting should go.

Fill some pots with some well drained compost, and maybe mix in a small volume of horticultural grit for good measure, to ensure your cuttings are not sat with their feet in water.

Push them vertically into the compost, with their tops at soil level. They can be kept outdoors all winter, as long as they are sheltered and away from the prevailing wind.

Also at this time of year, as we move into autumn, we need to reduce the watering and the ventilation in the greenhouse. It may even be an opportune time to get the greenhouse ready for the onset of winter. Empty out the greenhouse completely and give it a good clean, so you remove any pests that may hibernate in this environment.

If you are lucky enough to have the space, leave all the marrows, pumpkins and squashes on the plants for as long as is possible until the first frosts arrive. That way they will store better during the winter as you have allowed them ample time to mature.

It is also coming to the time of year that the odd looking but edible fruit of Fuchsias can be picked and eaten. Not many people realize that the fruit of all the different species of Fuchsia are edible, but the quality is dubious at times. Some taste of very little and others have a similar unpleasant aftertaste, reminiscent of the feeling you get after drinking Castlemaine XXXX! A most unpleasant experience in my opinion. Fushsia Splendens are often considered the best to eat as they are both peppery and citrusy at the same time.

Happy Gardening

Season's Eatings

The Best of British Food for October

Veg: beetroot, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, courgettes, bulb fennel, kale, leeks, marrow, onions, parsnips, pea shoots, potatoes, pumpkins & squashes, swede, tomatoes, turnips, watercress, wild mushrooms

Fruit: apples, Autumn raspberries, blackberries, pears, plums, sloes

Nuts: cobnuts, hazelnuts, sweet chestnuts, walnuts

Meat: Autumn lamb, grouse, Guinea fowl, pheasant, rabbit

Fish: clams, cod, coley, Dover sole, haddock, mussels, sardines, squid

Have you just taken on - or are thinking of getting - an allotment on The Leys?

We're looking for a novice "allotmentee" to feature each month in Leys News. We'll track your progress across the seasons for a year and hope to encourage the full take-up of allotments in the area.

Contact: Sarah on 01865 711756
editor@leysnews.co.uk

Agnes Smith Advice Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE CENTRE is very active within the community helping clients with their problems and also by participating in the running of other organisations such as the newly formed Leys Good Neighbour Scheme.

The centre is holding its AGM on Thursday 7 October at 6pm in the Church of the Holy Family, Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys. You are invited to attend and learn more about the organisation.

The centre is always seeking volunteers and directors. If you are interested in either you can attend the AGM or speak to the manager Jim Saunders on 01865 770206.

News from BLITZ

Two new courses:

1. Free Computer Maintenance Course

Understanding your computer in the work and home environment. Enrol now for our course starting in October. Course includes:

- First line support • Hardware • Software
- Trouble shooting • File management
- Upgrades

2. Working with digital images

- How to use a digital camera and upload the images onto their PC.

- Learn basic photo editing tasks including rotating, cropping and correcting tonal and colour balance.

- We will also experiment with using Photoshop to generate creative images (selections, layers, effects).

- How to take more interesting photos.

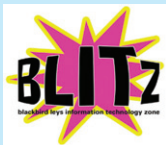
BLITZ is open to all adults and is supported by UK Online, Oxford Brookes University, and Grassroots Grants.

Drop in Times

Monday: 10am - 3pm

Wednesday: 12.30pm - 3pm

Friday: 10am - 12.00pm



The Blackbird Leys IT Hub

Ring John on 01865 714492 or email

blitzithub@yahoo.co.uk for further details. Or

visit him during office hours at the Leys

Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road.

Hi everyone,

Now with the winter months fast approaching the motivation to exercise and stay healthy becomes less and less. Many of us fall into the "winter blues" syndrome and so inevitably we push exercise to the back of our minds and we become unfit. When you're busy and tired it's easy to put off exercise until tomorrow, but sticking to a regular fitness routine is vital if you want to stay in shape and take care of your health. Just think about all of the effort that you put into your health and fitness over the summer. It'd be a shame to undo all of your hard work by sitting around feeling miserable all winter.

Motivating yourself to exercise on a cold winter day rather than cuddling up on your sofa with a nice warm drink can be difficult. If you give in to temptation and start falling into bad habits then you could soon be piling on the pounds. Slowing down physically could also have also an unwanted side effect of bringing you down psychologically. This is the time of year when the weather is lowering our spirits so it's time to take the necessary steps to stay active and happy. The good news is that there are plenty of ways to stay active and

prevent weight gain during the winter. A couple of new real fun ones are now available here in Blackbird Leys.

As some of you may already know Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre has just undergone major refurbishment with the installation of a brand new spinning studio. Spinning classes can be great way to get in a vigorous workout which burns calories and keeps your muscles in shape. You don't have to be certain level of fitness to participate in one of our classes as each individual can determine their own intensity level. The buzz of getting a real solid workout in a

fun group environment brings a sense of achievement which will keep you coming back for more. Also check out the new Zumba class that is currently gaining massive attention in the fitness industry. Zumba dancing is best described as a fun, joyful, Latin inspired fitness class that combines all the rhythms in Latin music.

Visit Blackbird Leisure Centre to gain further information on these class or any of the other classes on the new timetable.

Yannce

Exercise of the month: Side Lunges

This exercise is great for working the hips, glute and thighs by targeting the major muscles of the lower body.

Begin with the legs wide, toes out at a comfortable angle.

Holding a weight (or nothing at all), lunge to the right while keeping the left leg straight.

Sit back into the heel of the lunging leg while bringing the weight towards the floor.

Stand and repeat on the left side, alternating sides for 1-3 sets of 10-15 reps.



What's on at LEYS CHILDREN'S CENTRE

There have been some changes made to the Children's Centre's September/October 2010 timetable.

To find out what is on offer, please pick up a copy from Cuddesdon Corner 61-63 Cuddesdon Way, OX4 6SB or call 01865 773263.

Information is also available on the Leys Children's centre website: www.theleyschildrenscentre.org

Opening doors to Roman discoveries

AS part of The Oxford Open Doors event, visitors to The Leys learned about how the area was part of an important centre for pottery making in Roman Britain. The Leys and other places in Oxfordshire, such as Rose Hill, Littlemore, Horspath and Cowley produced pottery that was distributed across England as well as Europe.

These are some of the fascinating facts that local people found out when they joined the Oxford Open Doors Walk around Blackbird Leys led by Tanya Prescott. As well as standing on part of a Roman

road that runs through the estate, the group also got to try their hand at making clay bowls in a pottery session that followed the walk. "I really enjoyed this event, especially because it was local history where I live," said Linda Wisheart. Roger Smith, who came on the walk, added: "It was a pleasure to learn the history of where we live. Without this information, history in this community would be lost to all". If you would like to join in a themed walk or a health walk, or you would like a health walk arranged for your group, please contact Tanya Prescott on

07799893747 or email her at: walkontheleaves@yahoo.co.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about the archaeology of this area, there is a project called Archaeology of East Oxford which is focusing on community archaeology in East Oxford with the intention of exploring Blackbird Leys and carrying out archaeological digs in the area. To find out more check out their website: www.archeox.net

For information about the hidden history of Oxford, visit www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk

Classifieds

BUSINESS SERVICES

Does your business need a boost? Are you lost for words?

We offer a cost effective writing service for small businesses, and provide copywriting, press releases, web content and newsletters. For further information email mediabird@btinternet.com or call 07966 523662

TBAC Business Mentoring

Muddled over marketing? Struggling with Selling? Pondering over price? Need help with your business plan? TBAC can help - we offer continuous mentoring support to anyone who wants to expand a small business. Contact: Louise Goldsack on 01865 893305 info@tbac.org.uk www.tbac.org.uk

Hampden House Business Centre

Serviced offices, virtual offices and meeting rooms available to help your business make the right impression. For viewings call Chris Williams on 01865 893200 chris@jennings.co.uk www.hampden-house.co.uk

ENTERTAINMENT

Ouch! - the band

Rock, soul and pop for a great party, wedding or corporate event. If you're looking for great atmosphere, great music, a bit of a sing along and just a cracking night out you'll love the Ouch band.

Contact: Charlie 07710 970992 www.ouchband.co.uk

ELECTRICIANS

Hawtin Electrical

Hawtin Electrical can offer you free estimates and advice complete with a friendly affordable service. Whether you are looking for a simple addition to your lighting or power needs, having troubles with your electrics, completely re-wiring your house or starting from scratch, then Hawtin Electrical is the right choice for you. Niceic Part P approved domestic electrician. Call 07811 401279 jameshawtin@hawtin-electrical.co.uk website: www.hawtin-electrical.co.uk

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

Beauty, health and well being Therapist.

100% organic Forever Living Skincare and Sonya Colour Cosmetics. Personalised skincare and colour consultations in the comfort of your own home. Manicures and pedicures with massage. (Available for charity work too). For women who are suffering or in remission with cancer, I help you to re-create your eyebrows and teach you how to apply natural false eyelashes. Colour make up which I teach you. Girls Night In! - Pamper parties at home, the host will receive one free product and 10% off of her order for booking and hosting the party. Staying in, is the new going out! Established since 1992 Fully Insured By FHT. IHBC VTCT IHBC IHHT City & Guilds. Call Fabia Cerra on 07905428835 fabia@soaringteam.com www.fabiacosmetics.co.uk www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk



S & R CHILDS

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICES

Pharmacy House, 69 London Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 9AA Tel: (01865) 427272

10 The Parade, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1EE Tel: (01865) 378888

142 Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2DZ Tel: (01865) 714007

4 Elms Parade, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LG Tel: (01865) 245464

www.srchilds.co.uk



The only family owned and managed funeral service in Oxford offering a personal 24 hour service

Reach new customers in your local area with a Leys News Classified ad. Advertise your business from as little as £10 per issue (when booking for 12 months). To book your space ring Naomi on 01865 711756

What's on in the Leys

A quick guide to what's available locally. If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756.

Starlight Community project
Some of the courses and groups on offer:
● A course for women - gain self confidence, develop skills for work or further learning
● IT courses ● Dad's group
● Black British History course
● Parent Forum ● Get ready for work course ● Literacy & Numeracy skills ● Group for families with black children of mixed heritage
☎ 01865 778514
www.starlightproject.co.uk

Relaxation group for careers
Wednesday 20 October
10am–12pm, at the Barn, Nightingale Road, Greater Leys. Learn about healthy breathing, reducing stress through meditation and gentle exercise. Suitable for all age groups and levels of fitness. FREE. ☎ Pat, 01865 726444

ADVICE

Agnes Smith Advice Centre
Gives free independent and impartial advice. Drop-in sessions are in the centre on Mondays 2.00–4.00pm and Fridays 10.00am–12.00pm. Also in the Farmhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am–12pm. ☎ 01865 770206

CHILDREN

Baby Cafe: Cuddesdon Comer Family Centre, Fridays, 10.30am–12.30pm. www.thebabycafe.org
☎ Carole Roberts, 01865 788688
Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force
Sandy Lane West. Boys and Girls ages 13 to 18. Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm. ☎ 01869 259681

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities & advice for young people. ☎ 01865 772886.
Brownies: Thursdays, Holy Family Church Hall. Gill Manning, ☎ 01865 770959
Dovecote - Afterschool Club
Mondays – Thursdays, 3.15pm – 5.00pm, £1.30 per session. ☎ 01865 712299
Maluchy: group for Polish speaking families with children ages 0–5. Saturdays, Cuddesdon Corner family centre. 9.45–11.15am
☎ 07874187704

35th Oxford Scout Group
☎ Duncan Bowler, 0776 6293353
duncan@35thoxford.com
[for details see page 10]

Rainbows: Girls aged 5 to 7. Fridays during term time, 5.30–6.30pm, at the Holy Family Church Hall on Cuddesdon Way. ☎ Laura Turner, 07787528120

Leys Kiddie Club: In the Dovecote Family Drop-in Room, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 9.30am–2.30pm. £1. Price includes a hot drink and a soft drink for children.

EDUCATION

Able Centre
Free courses in Maths and English. ☎ Annette 776334

Blitz IT Courses
IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more. ☎ 01865 714492

Oxford Women's Training Scheme ☎ 01865 550227
hmcluckie@ocuc.ac.uk

LEISURE

Irish dancing. Sacred Heart Hall. Weds & Thurs, 5pm.

Boxing training. Youth Centre at the Leys Linx, Blackbird Leys Rd. Tues & Thurs 7.30–9.00pm. ☎ 01865 715815.

BL Swimming Pool
Blackbird Leys Road. General swimming times are Mon & Fri 5.45–6.45pm, and Sat & Sun 11.15am–1.00pm. Thursdays, 12–1pm, parent and toddlers. Saturdays and Sundays, 2.30–3.30pm, families only. ☎ 01865 467042.

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
● Bouncy fun for under 5s, Mon 10.30–12pm
● Body Conditioning, Mon 10–11am
● Tae Kwon Do, Tue 6–7pm
● Pilates Beginners, Tue 7–7.45pm
● Aerotone, Wed 6–7pm
● Tae kwon Do, Thu 5–6pm
● Circuit Training, Thu 7.05–7.55pm
● Boxercise, Fri 10–11am
● Step & Tone, Fri 6–7pm
All activities cost from £1.20

NETWORKING

Leys Women's Business Network. For women who have or are interested in starting their own business, however big or small. First Tuesday of the month, 7.30–9.00pm. £1 suggested donation. 26 Kingfisher Green
☎ 01865 395960

OLDER PEOPLE

Golden Circle
☎ Bernard Tucker, 460592

Silver Circle
☎ 435954 (Prime time tel. via Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre)

Monday lunch club
☎ Anne Appleton, 422231

Leys Community Church Over-60s Club
☎ Keith Templar, 715815

Gardening Club for the over 55s
The Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys ☎ 01865 395908
Meets first Thursday of each month, 2–4pm. £2, includes refreshments.
7 October - Annual General Meeting. Please bring ideas for interesting talks and visits to gardens and growers in 2011.
4 November - A talk by Janet Keene of the Oxford Urban Wildlife Group's Nature Reserve.

The Clockhouse
Activities, Friendship, Learning and Fun for the over 50s. The Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys, OX4 7FX
☎ 01865 395908

Line dancing for over 50s
Monday 27 September, 1.30–3.30pm. £1.50. Monthly dances. Beginners welcome.

Stretch and relax for over 50s (gentle yoga-based exercise). Tuesdays, 10–11am. £2. Starting 7 September.

Crafts group for over 50s (bring knitting, crochet, sewing and have a natter). Wednesdays, 11am to 12.30pm. £1.

Tai Chi for over 50s
Thursdays, 10–11am, £2. Starting 9 September.

Computer courses for over 50s. Learn at your own pace with the Clockhouse IT Project Group. Complete beginners very welcome. FREE. Call 07962 887379 for details.

Prime Time Over 50s group, Wednesdays, 10.30–3.30, at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road (£1.50). Keep fit, bingo, indoor bowls, speakers, activities and trips. ☎ 07534 740589
Samba Dance for Over 50s
Dance to infectious rhythms, shake it up and let it all out! Samba is an Afro-Brazilian dance form danced in carnivals in Brazil. Back in town due to popular demand! All over 50s welcome, no experience necessary. Weekly sessions begin on Tuesday 14 September, 10–11am. FREE
☎ 01865 252820

WELLBEING

Oxford Survivors Free Drop-in
A self-help group of people who use or have used mental health services. Fri and Sat, 10.30–3.30pm at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre. ☎ 01865 455868

The Listening Centre.
A counselling service for Blackbird Leys and Oxford. Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre. ☎ 01865 794794

Slimming World.
Thurs, 5.15pm & 7.00pm, Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road. ☎ Gill, 01865 730009

CHURCH NEWS

Leys Community Church

☎ Richard & Kate Colbrook, 01865 714153

Meets on Sundays, 3.30pm at the Church of the Holy Family. Meetings include special activities for children and young people.

Sunday 3 October, Harvest Festival Celebration, 3.30pm at the Church of the Holy Family

The Church of the Holy Family

☎ Rev David Parry, 01865 778728
& Rev Adam Stevenson, 01865 714163
www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk

Eucharist: Every Sunday, 10am, with children's church.
Timeout: Reflective evening worship. Sundays, 6.30pm.
Church Office Hour: Mondays at 6.30–7.30pm. For hall bookings, wedding arrangements and enquiries.
Fellowship for discussion: Most Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Prayer, Bible study.

Sunday 10 October, Harvest Praise for all Christians in this area, 6.30–8.30pm at Blackbird Leys Leisure centre.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys (car park in Poulton Place)
☎ Phone the church office 01865 779658, for all enquiries, baptisms, and next year's First Holy Communions, etc.

Sunday Masses: 9.30am, with music and children's liturgy; 12noon in Portuguese; and at 6.00pm.

YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Hatton; **Vice Chair:** Gerry Webb; **Non-position holders:** Anne Booker, Rae Humberstone (see City Council section below), Brian Lester, Cyril Martin, Gordon Roper, Sheila Smith, Pat Stannard.

For further details telephone 01865 716943 during office hours of 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Send mail to Parish Council 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU.

Oxford City Council

Blackbird Leys Ward



Val Smith – Labour
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
valsmith@gmail.com
or cllrvsmith@oxford.gov.uk
(her city councillor entry)



Rae Humberstone – Labour
75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys
☎ 01865 779678
cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uk

Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week. They can also visit people in their homes – ring or email to make arrangements.

Northfield Brook Ward



Stuart Craft – Independent Working Class Association
Furlong Close, Oxford OX4 4QJ
☎ 07733 274324

Surgery: Every Tuesday from 6.30 to 7.30pm at the Clockhouse.



Scott Seamons – Labour
2 Orchard Court Roase Hill Oxford OX4 4HJ
☎ 07910 595047
cllrseamons@oxford.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council Leys & Lye Division



Val Smith – Labour
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Richard Stevens – Labour
Flat 6 Eaton Court, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QT
☎ 07725 353031
richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament Member of Parliament for Oxford East



Andrew Smith – Labour
Unit A
Bishops Mews
Transport Way
Oxford OX4 6HD
☎ 01865 595790
andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every third Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm



What do Area Committees do?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

abandoned vehicles ● street cleaning
dog wardens ● ditches and streams
decisions on planning applications
public toilets ● car parks ● allotments
parks and countryside management
street naming ● community centres

South East Area Committee Meetings:

Monday, 4 October
6.30pm, venue to be confirmed

Monday, 1 November
6.30pm, venue to be confirmed

Monday, 6 December
6.30pm, venue to be confirmed

For further information ring 01865 252249

Leys News aims to bring you the best in local sporting action. If you would like to sponsor this page please email editor@leysnews.co.uk or ring 01865 711756

Leys Sports

Frustrations for United

Chris Wilder described Saturday's match with Stockport as "frustrating" after his side slipped to a cruel 1-0 defeat.

THE U's dominated large periods of the game, striking the woodwork and seeing a James Constable header ruled out for offside, but it was at the other end of the pitch that the game was decided as George Donnelly pulled away from his marker to head a pinpoint cross into the roof of the net to see the visitors leave with all three points.

Speaking after the final whistle, Wilder acknowledged that it was a game which should have seen his side come away with something to show for their efforts.

"I think we've seen another game in the same mould as the Bury match," said the gaffer. "I feel we've played just as well as we did against Morecambe two weeks ago when we smashed four goals past them, so I can't be too critical of the play besides a little bit in both boxes which is where we get judged. In the first half we should be three-nil up but we've switched off and their boy pulls off our centre halves, scores and gives them a massive lift. In second half they've never got in our half of the pitch and that's testament to the way that we played, but we've got to be more clinical.

"We kept knocking on the door, kept moving the ball around and kept moving them about, and I think you can see from their reaction at the end of the game that it's a great three points for both Paul [Simpson] and Stockport County. From our point of view it's disappointing because it's another game that we've dominated and been beaten in. It was just one of those days and I think everybody will leave very frustrated."



James Constable heads against the post. Photograph by Steve Daniels.

CALLING ALL SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN!

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SMITH BACK ON THE PODIUM IN ARAGON

OXFORDSHIRE teenager Bradley Smith was back on the podium after finishing third at the A-Style Grand Prix of Aragon in Spain this afternoon.

It was his third podium finish of the season which came after a dramatic 19 lap race in which Championship leader Marc Marquez was knocked off at the very first corner. Pol Espargaro went on to win the race from Smith's team mate Nico Terol who took over the lead in the Championship.

"Great to be back on the podium but I was lucky to finish the race when the engine started to tighten on the last couple of laps," said Smith, who maintains fourth place in the Championship. "Of course I want to be number one and that's what I aim to be fighting for in the



last five races of the season."

Kent based Danny Webb made a great start and eventually finished in

ninth place, while Scott Redding was eighth in the Moto2 race after starting from the front row of the grid.



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